

NC Management Units Table

APPENDIX E: TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA MANAGEMEN

NC Winter Mixed & Summer Northern Migratory Management Units
April 23, 2002

Proposed Regulatory Measures for NC Fisheries November 1 through April 30 (approved by consensus)

Small Mesh (<5")	Medium Mesh (5 – 7")	Large Mesh (>7")
Options for North of Cape Lookout to VA border	Options for North of Cape Lookout to VA border	Options for North of Cape Lookout to VA border
<p>Draft Regulatory Text:</p> <p>All gillnets with a mesh size of <5" shall be fished/hailed at least once within 24 hours.</p> <p>To designate that the gear has been fished/hailed, the fishermen shall attach a flag/buoy to each end of the net at the surface and the flag/buoy color is changed everyday no later than 3PM. This flag/buoy shall be visible at the surface at a minimum distance of 500 yd. (ex/wed color black, which means that fishermen have until 3PM on Wednesday to change flag/buoy to black color, with a different color everyday). To be developed by NMFS in coordination with state representatives and the fishing industry. *</p> <p>Regulations are applicable from September 1 through April 30 in state waters.</p> <p>*If implemented, NC intends to apply this regulation to both recreational and commercial gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>Research & Monitoring:</p> <p>Adequate observer coverage for small mesh fisheries, Including out-of-state and recreational fishermen.</p>	<p>Draft Regulatory Text:</p> <p>All gillnets with a mesh size of 5-7" shall be fished/hailed at least once within 24 hours.</p> <p>To designate that the gear has been fished/hailed, the fishermen shall attach a flag/buoy to the each end of the net at the surface and the flag/buoy color is changed everyday no later than 3PM. This flag/buoy shall be visible at the surface at a minimum distance of 500 yd. *</p> <p>Regulations are applicable from September 1 through April 30 in state waters.</p> <p>*If implemented, NC intends to apply this regulation to both recreational and commercial gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>Proximity rule: A person or vessel shall not cause to have one or more gillnets in the NC state regulated waters of the NC winter mixed management unit of bottlenose dolphin at night unless such individual or vessel remains within one half mile of the closest portion of each gear fished.</p>	<p>Options for North of Cape Lookout to VA border</p> <p>All gillnets with a mesh size of >7" shall be fished/hailed at least once within 24 hours.</p> <p>To designate that the gear has been fished/hailed, the fishermen shall attach a flag/buoy to the each end of the net at the surface and the flag/buoy color is changed everyday no later than 3PM. This flag/buoy shall be visible at the surface at a minimum distance of 500 yd. *</p> <p>Regulations are applicable from September 1 through April 30 in state waters.</p> <p>*If implemented, NC intends to apply this regulation to both recreational and commercial gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>Proximity rule: A person or vessel shall not cause to have one or more gillnets in the NC state regulated waters of the NC winter mixed management unit of bottlenose dolphin at night unless such individual or vessel remains within one half mile of the closest portion of each gear fished.</p>

<p>Increase observer coverage for state waters, including the use of alternative platforms.</p> <p>Recommendations for Gear Research: The following gillnet modifications or fishing practices should be investigated for use within NC state and federal waters to reduce the potential take of bottlenose dolphins:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No bridle or a modified bridle is used to attach the gear to the anchor so that there is not pressure on the float rope great enough to collapse the end of the net. 2. Floatation used within some distance of the ends of the net should have increased buoyancy relative to the floats used in the rest of the floatline. 3. All multi-panel gillnets should be laced together (i.e. rope or other specified material) such that any inter-panel distance is less than or equal to the mesh size of each panel. 4. Investigate the effects of net profile (assumption that a shallower net would be less likely to catch dolphins). <p>By June 2003, NMFS shall institute a research program to determine (to the best of our ability) whether the above gear modifications may provide an effective means to reduce bycatch, and NMFS will provide the results of gear modification research to the TRT along with any recommendations for modifications to the TRP. The TRP recommends that NMFS institute the regulatory flexibility to test and implement proven gear modifications in a timely manner.</p>	<p>With the proviso that NMFS assess the amount of gear that can realistically be set, using experiments with fishermen, university scientists existing observer data, and, if possible, with experiments with fishermen in ongoing fisheries, and provide that information to the TRT at its next meeting (i.e., roughly within 6 months).</p> <p>Expectation: will not result in more gear in water and that the gear will be constantly hauled.</p> <p><u>Draft Regulatory Text:</u> <u>Definitions:</u> Night means “any time between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.” Medium mesh gillnet means....</p> <p>From November 1 through April 30, no person may fish with a medium mesh gillnet at night within state waters south of Virginia/North Carolina border to Cape Lookout unless that gear is tended. During that time, all gillnet set by that vessel in the waters shore south of the Virginia/North Carolina border to Cape Lookout must be removed from the water and placed on board the vessel before a vessel returns to port.</p> <p>Should the spiny dogfish fishery be prosecuted by medium mesh due to modifications to quota allocations or seasons, the TRT shall revisit the issue and consider the need for establishing regulations for that fishery and other fisheries (gear type, soak times, length of net, etc.).</p>
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Small Mesh (<5")	Medium Mesh (5 – 7")	Large Mesh (>7")
Options for South of Cape Lookout	Options for South of Cape Lookout	Options for
<p>All gillnets shall be fished/hailed at least once within 24 hours.</p> <p>To designate that the gear has been fished/hailed, the fishermen shall attach a flag/buoy to each end of the net at the surface and the flag/buoy color is changed everyday no later than 3PM. This flag/buoy shall be visible at the surface at a minimum distance of 500 yd.</p> <p>Regulations are applicable from October 1 through April 30.</p> <p>*If implemented, NC intends to apply this regulation to both recreational and commercial gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>Research & Monitoring: Adequate observer coverage for all small mesh fisheries, including out-of-state and recreational fishermen. Need to provide observers of the SC fishermen who fish in southern NC waters. Increase observer coverage for state waters, including the use of alternative platforms</p> <p>Recommendations for Gear Research: The following gillnet modifications or fishing practices should be investigated for use within NC state and federal waters to reduce the</p>	<p>No night sets of gillnets within state waters, excluding floating anchored gillnet until December 31, 2004. * (Night means “any time between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.”)</p> <p>* exclusion is to accommodate American shad ocean intercept fishery, which will end December 31, 2004.</p> <p>Draft Regulatory Text: All gillnets wit a mesh size of 5 – 7” shall be fished/hailed at least once within 24 hours.</p> <p>To designate that the gear has been fished/hailed, the fishermen shall attach a flag/buoy to each end of the net at the surface and the flag/buoy color is changed everyday no later than 3PM. This flag/buoy shall be visible at the surface at a minimum distance of 500 yd.</p> <p>Regulations are applicable from October 1 through April 30 in state waters.</p> <p>*If implemented, NC intends to apply this regulation to both recreational and commercial gillnet fisheries.</p>	<p>All gillnets with a prohibited from fi waters (3 nautical means “any time sunset and one ho</p> <p><u>Draft Regulatory Definitions:</u> Night means “any after sunset and o</p> <p>Large mesh gillne From November 1 person may fish w night within state Lookout to the Nc border. At night, within state water the North Carolin must be removed placed on board b port.</p>

<p>potential take of bottlenose dolphins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? No bridle or a modified bridle is used to attach the gear to the anchor so that there is not pressure on the float rope great enough to collapse the end of the net. ? Floatation used within some distance of the ends of the net should have increased buoyancy relative to the floats used in the rest of the floatline. ? All multi-panel gillnets should be laced together (i.e. rope or other specified material) such that any inter-panel distance is less than or equal to the mesh size of each panel. ? Investigate the effects of net profile (assumption that a shallower net will be less likely to catch dolphins). <p>By June 2003, NMFS shall institute a research program to determine (to the best of our ability) whether the above gear modifications may provide an effective means to reduce bycatch, and NMFS will provide the results of gear modification research to the TRT along with any recommendations for modifications to the TRP. The TRP recommends that NMFS institute the regulatory flexibility to test and implement proven gear modifications in a timely manner.</p> <p>The group discussed the one take in the kingfish fishery (Feb 2000) and found it was taken in untraditional gear, with the following characteristics (depth of net @ 70 meshes deep</p>	<p><u>Draft Regulatory Text:</u></p> <p><u>Definitions:</u></p> <p>Night means “any time between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.”</p> <p>Medium mesh gillnet means</p> <p>From November 1 through April 30, no person may fish with a medium mesh gillnet at night within state waters south of Cape Lookout to the North Carolina/South Carolina border. At night, all medium mesh gillnets within state waters south of Cape Lookout to the North Carolina/South Carolina border must be removed from the water with gear placed on board before a vessel returns to port.</p> <p>Recognition that should the spiny dogfish fishery be prosecuted by medium mesh due to modifications to quota allocations or seasons, the TRT shall revisit the issue and consider the need for establishing regulations for that fishery and other fisheries (gear type, soak times, length of net, etc.).</p>	
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vs. a typical net depth of 25 – 35 meshes). As a result, the group felt it was best to address this issue through gear modification research.		
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Virginia Gillnet (>7")
<p>Draft Regulatory:</p> <p>From November 1 through December 31, no gillnet with mesh >7" may be in the water at night in state waters from the Chesapeake Bay mouth (lighthouse at the tip of Smith Island – Cape Charles Light) to the North Carolina border. At night, all large mesh gillnets within state waters from the Chesapeake Bay mouth to the North Carolina border must be removed from the water with gear placed on board before a vessel returns to port.</p> <p>*</p> <p>*harbor porpoise closure for large mesh gillnets (>7") Feb 15 - March 15 will provide additional bycatch reduction</p> <p>(Night means "any time between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.")</p>

Beach-based Fishing Practices
NC coastwide and year-round
<p>Draft Regulatory Text:</p> <p>Beach haul seine: Any gear attached or anchored to, or fished from the beach must use 4" stretch mesh or less.</p> <p>Roe Mullet Stop net: Any gear attached or anchored to, or fished from the beach must use 4" stretch mesh or less, with the exception that up to the first 100 yards of net from the shoreline may be up to 8" stretch mesh.</p> <p>Best Management Practice:</p> <p>Long Haul seine: When setting gear, fishermen shall not intentionally encircle dolphins in the gear, and shall halt all fishing activity and release the marine mammal.</p>

Recommendations for Summer NC Management Unit
(May 1 – October 31)

Proposed Regulatory Measures for NC Fisheries May 1 through October 31 (as approved by consensus)

North Carolina Coastwide Small Mesh (<5")	North Carolina Coastwide Medium Mesh (5 – 7")	North Carolina Coastwide Large Mesh (8 – 12")
<p>Research & Monitoring: Adequate observer coverage for all small mesh fisheries, including out-of-state and recreational fishermen. Need to provide observers of the SC fishermen who fish in southern NC waters. Increase observer coverage for state waters, including the use of alternative platforms</p> <p>Recommendations for Gear Research: The following gillnet modifications or fishing practices should be investigated for use within NC state and federal waters to reduce the potential take of bottlenose dolphins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? No bridle or a modified bridle is used to attach the gear to the anchor so that there is not pressure on the float rope great enough to collapse the end of the net. ? Floatation used within some distance of the ends of the net should have increased buoyancy relative to the floats used in the rest of the floatline. ? All multi-panel gillnets should be laced together (i.e. rope or other specified material) such that any inter-panel distance is less than or equal to the mesh size of each panel. ? Investigate the effects of net profile (assumption that a shallower net would be less likely to catch dolphins). <p>By June 2003, NMFS shall institute a research program to determine (to the best of our ability) whether the above gear modifications may provide an effective means to reduce bycatch, and NMFS will provide</p>	<p>Research & Monitoring: Adequate observer coverage for medium mesh fisheries, Including out-of-state and recreational fishermen. Increase observer coverage for state waters, including the use of alternative platforms.</p>	<p>- no m becau regul use c April in sta</p> <p>Recomm existing 1 regulator large mes and Dece</p>

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Additional provisions/issues for South of Cape Lookout:

Research & Monitoring:

Need to provide observers of the SC fishermen who fish in southern NC waters.

The group discussed the one take in the kingfish fishery (Feb 2000) and found it was taken in untraditional gear, with the following characteristics (depth of net @ 70 meshes deep vs. a typical net depth of 25 – 35 meshes). As a result, the group felt it was best to address this issue through gear modification research.